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## INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Conditions in Rural Bulgaria

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
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25X1X Although certain portions of the following report may be well-known, it is believed that this information, [REDACTED] of conditions in rural Bulgaria, may be of value.

1. The Bulgarian Government attempts to uncover opponents of the regime in the villages by sending out small groups of trusted Communists to pass themselves off as refugees, requesting aid from the peasants. Those peasants who are deceived into supplying food and aid to such groups are immediately arrested, interrogated under torture, and eventually killed.
2. One member of the Militia is ordinarily stationed in each village. He is assisted by local members of the Communist Party who are armed with automatic weapons. These local Communists are always members of the Union of Fighters Against Fascism and serve with the Militia when so ordered. They are given special training with special emphasis on responding to alarms.
3. Communist Party members in the villages are now compelled to follow regular employment, usually numbering between four and thirty to a village, they spend their time participating in night ambushes of opponents of the regime or keeping watch on the wealthier anti-Communist villagers. These latter are required to report to the local Militia each morning before going to work and again at 6:30 p.m.
4. Collectivization of land is carried out by force. The best land is usually selected for collectivization and individuals refusing to enter the Kolkhoz voluntarily are persecuted. Peasants are compelled to sell their produce to the state at low rates; the state then sells it at a high price. Peasants not producing wheat are allowed 300 grams of this grain daily; wheat growers are theoretically permitted to retain 600 grams per day. Even these small amounts are usually confiscated on the ground that the peasants have failed to declare their production in time. Peasants are subjected to progressive taxation; under this system the larger the amount of land owned by a peasant the smaller his income. Cattle are slaughtered on a ration system. Peasants who are not members of collective farms are required to furnish most of the fresh meat. Villagers are bitter about the conditions under which they live but are unable to resist because of the terrorist regime to which they are subjected and their lack of arms.

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5. In addition to Communist propaganda spread by the press and radio, local meetings are conducted by the Communist Party and the Fatherland Front. Special groups, known as "Agitki", spread propaganda in the villages. The village population is also forced to attend weekly public meetings. Young people are given special attention, being compelled to deliver lectures on various phases of Communist theory. Young children are systematically taught that they have no obligations to their parents, their sole friend and protector being the Communist Party. As a result, parents fear to express their sentiments even in their own homes.

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